



**NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE**

**Miami, Florida 33165**

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## **South Florida Dry Season Outlook 2014-2015**

### **Wetter and Cooler than Normal**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014:** A generally wetter and cooler than normal dry season is anticipated, according to today's release of the dry season outlook at the National Weather Service Miami-South Florida forecast office. Details on the basis for this outlook follow.

#### **Dry Season Climate Factors**

The primary factor influencing Florida weather this dry season is the [likely occurrence of El Niño](#), which is the warm phase of the [ENSO \(El Niño/Southern Oscillation\)](#). El Niño winters are usually characterized by a more active southern jet stream which can lead to occasional low pressure systems affecting the southern United States and Gulf of Mexico. These systems, in turn, can bring increased episodes of cloudy, wet and stormy weather to Florida.

Other factors include: intra-seasonal cycles such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) which can significantly change weather pattern over the course of days or even weeks; past years (analogs) with similar conditions; and long-range model predictions.

#### **Precipitation/Severe Weather Outlook and Possible Impacts**

As noted above, a characteristic of El Niño winters in Florida is an **increased likelihood of wetter than normal conditions**. These increased periods of wet

weather are still the exception in what is still a generally a sunny and dry time of year, but can provide additional rainfall which help to alleviate winter and early spring dryness. The low pressure systems that bring these wet periods also can bring severe weather events to south Florida in the form of strong to severe thunderstorms with gusty winds and hail, localized flooding and even tornadoes.

Another effect of an El Niño winter is a possible delay of the spring wildfire season. However, the wildfire risk will still increase as we approach the warmer spring months of March and April when ground moisture conditions are usually at their driest.

### **Temperature Outlook and Possible Impacts**



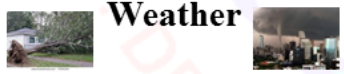

Another El Niño characteristic is **cooler than normal temperatures** during the dry season, especially during the winter months of December through February. Much of this is caused by more frequent cloudy/rainy episodes interspersed in a mostly dry and mild winter which act to lower daytime temperatures. Cold and freeze episodes are still a distinct possibility this winter, mainly in December, January and February. Interior sections of South Florida experience at least one light freeze each winter. Freezing temperatures occur less frequently over the metro areas and along the coasts.

Although this winter is not expected to produce a significantly higher number of freeze events over South Florida; these events are mostly dictated by intra-seasonal cycles which are extremely difficult to predict more than 2 weeks in advance. Therefore, those particularly sensitive to cold weather impacts should continue to pay close attention to the latest trends and forecasts.



# South Florida 2014-2015 Dry Season Outlook



Element	Outlook Nov-Apr	Long-Term Normal Values/Frequency
<b>Temperature</b> 	Near to Below Normal	64-66F Interior/W 67-69F East
<b>Precipitation</b> 	Near to Above Normal	12-15" Interior/W 15-21" East
<b>Storminess/Severe Weather</b> 	Normal	5-6 events per season
<b>Freeze</b> 	Normal	At least one per season

Stay tuned to local media outlets and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest weather information. For more information on the expected weather hazards and impacts in south Florida, as well as for updated local weather information and outlooks, please visit the National Weather Service in Miami web site at [weather.gov/southflorida](http://weather.gov/southflorida). You can also visit our [South Florida Climate Page](#).